

Official Magazine Newsletter of
the Kansas Army National Guard

KANSAS SENTINEL

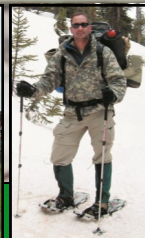
August 2010 Volume 1, Issue 6

CRISIS CITY SPECIAL—



The wounds look real—hundreds of ‘casualties’ act the part of the wounded—many local, state and federal responders participate.

*Numerous change of commands
this past month*



***Soldier is Himalayan
Bound!***

FEATURES

August 2010 Volume 1 Issue 6

Commander's Call.....	3
DART at 35th ID.....	4
226th assist Afghan school.....	7
635th RSG changes command	8
Housel's Heroes.....	9
New commander for 287th Sustainment Brigade.....	11
Stop Loss Pay Alert.....	12
TAG's pistol shoot results.....	14
Historic painting at museum..	15
Crisis City events.....	16
Decon in the world today.....	24
130th FA returns from Sinai...	28
287th Special Troops BN has new commander.....	29
Resiliency Center helps.....	30
Soldier headed for Himalayan peak.....	32
137th Soldiers take over mission.....	33
235th Training Regiment has new battalion commander.....	36

The Kansas Sentinel is an authorized, official publication of the Kansas Army National Guard. The Kansas Sentinel is published to provide command and public information to specific audiences about the Kansas Army National Guard and its Soldiers at home and deployed abroad. It is published by the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD) in Topeka, Kansas.

Views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official view of or is endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army. This publication does not supersede any information presented in any other official Army or Department of Defense publication.

Kansas Sentinel reserves the right to edit all material. Published works may be reprinted, except where copyrighted, provided credit is given to the Kansas Sentinel and the authors. Distribution of the Kansas Sentinel is electronic.

Assistant Adjutant General-Land Component:

Col. Lee Tafanelli

Publisher: Maj. Michael Wallace,
105th MPAD, Commanding

Editor: Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke,
105th MPAD, First Sergeant

Design and Layout: Maj. Michael Wallace
Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke

Proof and Editor-at-Large: Jane Welch
State Public Affairs Office

Articles, photos, artwork and letters are invited and should be addressed to: Editor, Kansas Sentinel, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 2722 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS 66611. Telephone: 785-274-1902, or by email at: phillip.witzke@ng.army.mil or michael.lee.wallace@us.army.mil

On the cover:

Civilian Kansas emergency responders have uncovered a faux casualty in the rubble pile at Crisis City at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan. During the exercise, numerous local, state and federal authorities, as well as the Nebraska National Guard responded as they would to the emergencies in real-life scenarios.

Photo by Robin Lorenson

Commander's Call!

Great accomplishments, keeping up the good work—

The Soldiers and their family members of the Kansas Army National Guard have done great and monumental things and I want to thank our Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting for the honor of assigning me into the great trust and responsibility of commanding the Kansas Army National Guard.

I pledge to all of the Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard my very best efforts to be worthy of what you've entrusted to me. I take this responsibility with the highest seriousness, and I will do my best to earn your trust every single day.

My predecessor, Brig. Gen. John Davoren has led the Kansas Army Guard through tough deployments and challenges because we are at a unique time in history. Gen. Bunting and Gen. Davoren both deserve our sincere thanks for truly caring for all our soldiers and airmen, and for positioning Kansas so well for future challenges.

But, we cannot afford to rest, for the soldiers of the Kansas Guard, we have some tough times ahead. Over the next several



***Col. Lee Tafanelli**
Assistant Adjutant General,
Kansas Land Component*

years, we will see tremendous changes in the military. No one knows exactly what is coming and what those changes will be, but we will need to move fast, and we need to be absolutely resolute in adapting to the needs of the country and Kansas... whatever they may be.

For the soldiers who know me, I ask for you to perform in the manner that's made me so proud of you over the years. For the soldiers who don't know me, I ask that you allow me to earn your trust... we will

need everyone's best ideas and very best efforts.

I hope that the families will grant me the favor of speaking on their soldier's behalf when I say, "When we put on the uniform and leave you for awhile, please always know in your heart that it is to keep you safe, and keep you away from harm. We know it is never easy, but we thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve this great country and state. We owe you everything."

Thank you.

DART Concept put to the test

BY Maj. Michael Howell, DART-West 35 ID Plans Officer

Throughout its history the National Guard has responded to hurricanes, forest fires, earthquakes, and floods many times. Additionally, the events of Sept. 11, 2001, show there are a myriad of man-made threats to our nation. The National Guard is preparing to respond to these potentially complex and large scale threats with a new initiative, the Domestic All-Hazards Response Team (DART). The DART is the evolution of a concept that began with the use of division headquarters to command and control Guard forces during the response to Hurricane Katrina and was expanded by Joint Task Force 29 to include preplanned capability packages during the 2009 Presidential Inauguration.

The DART concept leverages the planning and command capabilities organic to a division headquarters to assist states in responding to large scale events. Using the eight National Guard Infantry Divisions as a force pool, the nation was divided into two areas of responsibility. DART –West was formed up with members of the 35th Infantry Division and was assigned the states generally west of the Mississippi River as its area of responsibility, while the 28th Infantry Division was designated DART-East and assigned the states generally east of the Mississippi River. DART responds only at the request of the affected state. Coordination is done directly with the Joint Operations Coordination Cells (JoCC) of the affected and supporting states as resources are brought to bear on the event. The concept with



Maj. William Woodard confirms data with Maj. Michael McCoy as the DART update is prepared.

Photos by Maj. Brian Schoenhofer, 35ID SGS

DART saves not only taxpayer dollars, but time as well. By identifying existing capability gaps, DART identifies which resource can best respond to a man-made or natural disaster. The unique capabilities brought to the disaster through DART offer a scalable, modular response.

The 35th Infantry Division Commander, Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, has worked diligently with National Guard Bureau and his DART-West personnel as the DART concept was developed. Working together, the DART members collectively developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to identify force packages in order to fill identified capability gaps in the affected states. While developing DART, the 35th has begun to coordinate with the Adjutants General from various states in order to ensure the DART concept is understood. The initial focus was on the states facing the most dangerous scenarios. This focus led to the development of a validation exercise, which culminated in the practical application of all processes and SOPs developed since August of 2009.

The exercise, held July 12 to 16 at the 35th Infantry Division Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., focused on identifying the resources the affected states would request based on pre-identified capability gaps from states which have been historically affected by floods, hurricanes, wildfires and earthquakes. As the exercise concluded, Pierson stated confidently, “the exercise objectives have been met.”



Maj. William Woodard, DART Deputy briefs Maj. Gen. Pierson, 35th Infantry Division Commander in the daily update brief.

Guard Exercises Test Domestic Response Teams

By Master Sgt. Mike Smith, National Guard Bureau

Members of the Kansas National Guard kicked off one of two, joint exercises at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in July that test the growing capability of the Guard's Domestic All-Hazard Response Teams (DART).

The newly created DARTs are 12-man teams requested by the governor of a state who needs outside resources to assist civilian responders in a major disaster.

The exercise challenged DARTs from the Kansas Guard's 35th Infantry Division (ID) and the Pennsylvania Guard's 28th ID with multiple simulations, including a terrorist attack, hurricanes, flooding, wildfires and a major earthquake.

Participants are working with the states and the National

Guard Bureau to develop standard operation procedures for coordinating requests for Guard resources, including manpower, equipment, special response teams or command and control elements.

"It has been an effort on both of our parts to make DART successful," said Army Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, the commander of the 35th ID, who oversees the DART's western region.

Just over one year ago, Pierson's division headquarters took on DART as a concept from Army Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, the former director of the Army Guard.

Pierson said his team took the basic concept and spent months filling in the details needed to make it work.

"That's no small task, when considering the large

amount of communications and protocol it takes to serve as an emergency resource hub between the 54 states and territories and the National Guard Bureau," he said.

The DART operations center is now connected to a potential national asset of thousands of National Guard members and billions of dollars in equipment, which could come in from other states to support a

governor and civilian authorities during an emergency.

Saving taxpayer dollars is another benefit of DART, Pierson said, because better coordination of resources ensures a measured amount of Guard personnel and equipment are being sent to the exact locations where they are needed. In concept, a leaner, more specific response force is less wasteful—they are putting their work to the test in this exercise.

"Overall, the DART concept will be taking a big step forward, I believe, as a result of



The 35th Infantry Division's DART West is one of only two DARTs whose regions east and west of the Mississippi River encompass the Guard's major disaster coordination for the nation. (The Pennsylvania Guard 28th Infantry Division runs DART East.)

Army officials pointed out why infantry divisions are qualified to run DART, in its 2010 Posture Statement:

"The DART concept utilizes the unique capabilities of a division headquarters for planning and coordinating the employment of units."



this exercise," Pierson said.

Army Maj. Michael Howell, chief plans officer for DART West and a 15-year sergeant with the Kansas City, Kan., police force, was among the first Guard officers to take on the DART concept last August and develop it into a working mission.

He said the headquarters from the 35th and the 28th "worked together collectively to produce tactics and procedures in order to respond to any call for assistance from an affected state."

"The goal here is to effectively help the states take care of themselves," he said, "because the National Guard is the first line of defense for America and for our respective states and cities."

See DART, Page 6

Howell said the exercise will play out the scenarios in which states find their internal resources overwhelmed and the emergency management agreements with other states are also overwhelmed.

“The DART coordination cell will work with the state’s headquarters to identify capability gaps and offer a menu of recommended force packages, which respond to fulfill those capability gaps,” he said. Those force packages might be a medical platoon, a security battalion or Soldiers for sandbagging operations.

“In order to minimize the costs, we identify the capability gap and we fill that gap, which minimizes the cost to taxpayers and civilian employers,” Howell said.

In a room lined with television screens and computers, the DART coordination cell gathered intelligence, monitored their communication systems and data and worked through the scenarios as they played out the exercise here this week.

Pierson said there’s much more work to be done to ensure they are ready when the DART goes into action for the first time. He said they need to educate the states about the teams, and they also need to improve themselves through exercises, like the current one.

“But if something happens today, I would be very comfortable taking this division headquarters underneath a DART concept and provide support for whatever situation an adjutant general may call a state and say, “I need help,” he said.

For the last four months, Pierson’s team has traveled to the states’ Joint Forces Headquarters to educate the adjutants general and their staffs about DART and its capabilities.

They began with states where the odds show DART support will be needed or those states prone to natural disasters.

He stresses to those state leaders that DART serves under the adjutants general to provide as much or as little support as they need at their request.

Pierson said responsibility for the DART’s east and west missions will rotate though the Army Guard’s infantry divisions during their reset periods. Kansas and Pennsylvania are scheduled to hand over the mission sometime in the fall.

Order your bricks for the 635th RSG

Memorial Bricks for the 635th Regimental Patio/Walkway at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard project are being ordered. The paving bricks are purchased, the 35th Division Annex is complete and the area leading to the tank is available for the project.

With your prompt response, the original walkway will include your inscribed brick along with the ‘Will to Win’ Crest and historical dates of the 635th Tank Destroyers, 1st and 2nd Battalions, 635th Armor.

This is the time to honor your company, your service or your family by ordering your inscribed memorial.

Return your desired inscription and tax deductible contribution payable to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard by Aug. 25, 2010 so your brick can be included in the original laying.

Bricks may be purchased after that date if desired and added in as needed, but the plan is to have the patio completed in early October 2010.

**Museum of the Kansas National Guard
ATTN: 635th Armor Regiment
6700 S Topeka Boulevard, Bldg 301
P.O. 19285
Topeka, KS 66619-0285**

Exterior Brick (\$50 each) Inscription is 2 lines, max 16 spaces per line _____

The Regimental Staff remains active to administer the 635th Regimental Scholarship Fund and support the Armor Soldiers and Cavalry Scouts in the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, 35th Division, and Kansas Guard units.

226TH ENGINEER COMPANY ASSIST LOCAL SCHOOL

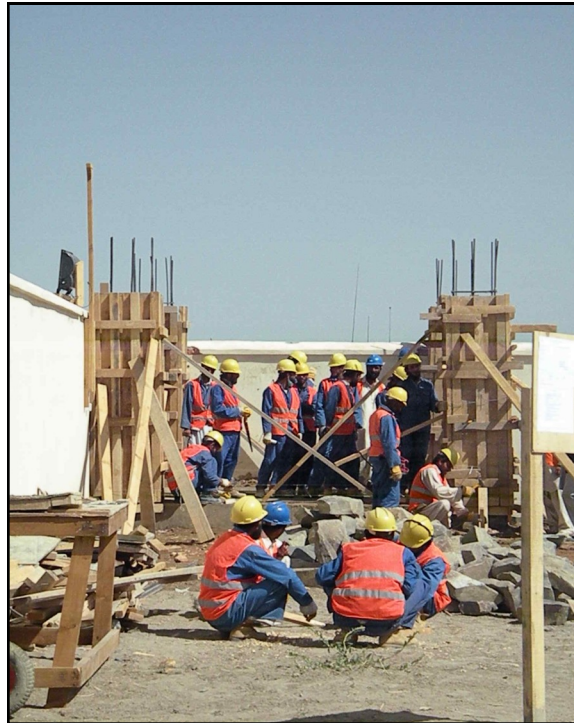
*Story by Spc. Celia Prince, 226th Engineer Company,
Unit Public Affairs Representative*

It's summertime and you know what that means; school is out for the summer. Most students are jumping at the chance to put their pencils down and go outside to play, just be able to take a break, but here in Afghanistan that is far from the desire.

Students here are eager just to have the chance to be a part of a community that allows schools. For these students, attending a school means the possibility of having a job and making their own money to support their families. The latest school to make progress in the area is the Center for Engineering Excellence (CEE) facilitated by Gallant Engineering Team and Construction Company (GETCC). The school teaches men in their early 20's to mid 30's from around the Paktika Providence Vertical Engineering skills to take their work to the next level: Getting hired by area Paktika Contractors or develop their own Contractor Company.

From March 15 – May 25, 2010 the 24 students worked to improve the skills they are already had. Capt. Rocky Hodges of the 226th Engineer Company, Kansas Army National Guard, and his team collaborated with the President of GETCC, Engineer Wajhuddin to help the students have a better sense of knowing right from wrong when it comes to their contracting skills.

The students that came to the school already had vertical contractor skills, but joined so that they could become a part of something greater; the building up of their Paktika Providence. In many of the prior construction projects, their methods of fabrication were



Students of the CEE listen as their instructor teaches them how to build a guard tower in the corner of the school's village.

Photos by:
Spc. Celia Prince,
226th Engineer Company,
UPAR

correct but through the help of the school the contractors are able to hone their skills and improve upon their previous constructions projects.

May 25, marked a milestone for the men of the spring 2010 Contractor class, it was their graduation day. In honor of their achievement, new Paktika Governor Mubibulla Samim, visited the students and saw firsthand the growth they've made to become hireable contractors. Governor Samim gave a speech to encourage them in their progress and shook each one of their hands as the diplomas were passed out. Promising them if they had a problem finding a job they were "welcomed to come to his office and he would place them in a job."

See SCHOOL, Page 31



(left) Two of the students preparing to graduate work together to brace the frame to the guard tower the students are learning to build.

(right) Students of the CEE prepare a stake for the guard tower they are learning to build.



635th Regional Support Group has change of command

The Kansas Army National Guard's 635th Regional Support Group had a change of command ceremony on July 24, 2010 where outgoing commander, Col. Michael Dittamo handed over command to Lt. Col. John H. Campbell.

"I welcome the opportunity to lead the outstanding soldiers of the 635th Regional Support Group and feel privileged to have been selected to do so," said Campbell. "This group exemplifies the best and brightest of the Kansas Army National Guard and together we will continue to build upon the high standards already established by this fine organization."

"I feel honored and privileged to have led the great soldiers of the 635th Regional Support Group," said Dittamo. "I am proud of the superb deployment performance by the battalions in the 635th Regional Support Group. The mission successes of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery in combat in Iraq and the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery peacekeeping in the Sinai Desert are a tribute to their quality."

The ceremony was held at 1 p.m. at the Custer Hill Parade Field, Fort Riley, Kan.

The 635th Regional Support Group is headquartered in Hutchinson with subordinate units headquartered in Great Bend, Hiawatha, Ottawa and Wichita.

Campbell and his wife, Meegan, reside in Overland Park, Kan. They own several businesses in the Kansas City area including Studdard Relocation Services and Best Price Boxes of Overland Park.



(above) Outgoing commander, Col. Michael Dittamo, accepts the unit colors from Command Sgt. Maj. Manuel Rubio.

(lower photo)—A howitzer battery firing a salute was part of the official ceremony.

Photos by Sgt. Jason Lee, Public Affairs



(right photo, from left)—Outgoing commander, Col. Michael Dittamo, assistant adjutant general-Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, Col. Lee Tafari, and incoming commander, Lt. Col. John H. Campbell salute the colors during the ceremony. There was also a mounted color guard **(left photo)**



Housel's Heroes

Engineers spotlighted—

*Story and photos by Spc. Celia Prince,
226th Engineer Company, Unit Public Affairs Representative*

The team is getting quite a name for itself with all the projects they have been involved in. The team is under supervision of Staff Sgt. Dustin Housel, of the 3rd Platoon, 226th Engineer Company.

Housel and his heroes went off to a remote land in Afghanistan where they sought out how best to go about improving the living conditions of Soldiers. Desolation surrounded them everywhere and most resources were scarce for their needs, but that didn't stop them from completing their mission.

With only a football field sized area to work on called Combat Outpost (COP) Zerok, where the inhabitants live as rough as the land, the projects tasked were small in scale, but monumental in development. Living conditions consisted mostly of sleeping bags and cots while being housed in 20-foot long connexes (shipping containers) with up to eight men sharing the space at a time.

3rd Platoon from the 226th Engineer Company sent 1st squad leader Housel along with a medic and six other Soldiers to COP Zerok in early March 2010. One piece of the Company's mission, while being deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, is to help surrounding areas gain self-sustainment. One of the ways they are helping is by providing running water for personal hygiene.

Before deploying, the 226th added troops from all over Kansas allowing the unit to be a multi-faceted engineer element. Some of the Soldiers attached to the unit



Housel's Heroes from left to right: *Spc. Robert Dutton, Spc. Michael Rogers, Spc. Jason Newport, Spc. Nicholas Stipp, Spc. Kenneth Rood, Cpl. Cory Redfern, Spc. Anthony Strickland and Staff Sgt. Dustin Housel.*

came with previous experience in high threat level missions from prior deployments to Iraq. Housel and a few members of his team had the benefit of sharing their knowledge of combat engineer skills with the newly deployed heroes while at COP Zerok. Along with the team's experience and skill level, their ability to adapt well to the terrain and its demands, since being in a new country, also played hand in the name they dubbed their small group: Housel's Heroes.

Their assigned mission was to provide running water for the COP's two shower trailers. During their time there Housel's Heroes constructed and emplaced a plumbing pump dog house and a gray water system. Water containers measuring from 12 to 15-foot tall were hooked up to the pipes leading to the showers. They emplaced an electrical panel, panel protection and an electrical plumbing pump leading to the shower trailers.

Due to the COP being nestled in the mountains, the high situational awareness level and inclement weather, supplies were often delayed. Housel's Heroes were able to complete 16 projects outside of their assigned scope of work.



Housel's Heroes also worked to connect water containers measuring from 12-15' tall to the pipes leading to the showers.

See HOUSEL'S HEROES, Page 10



Left photo: *Spc. Michael Rogers helps dig a trench to drain stagnant water out from under the billets and pipes were laid to direct the flow of water*

Middle photo: *Housel's Heroes install pipes to direct the flow of water leading to the shower trailers.*

Bottom photo; *This pictures shows the progress Housel's Heroes made during their mission at COP Zerok.*

From HOUSEL'S HEROES, Page 9

Other types of work done included: Digging trenches to drain stagnant water out from under the billets and pipes were laid to direct the flow of water. As well as roughing in electrical for power, painting, laying tiles and installing fixtures.

The Afghan National Army (ANA) and U.S. Infantry Soldiers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry out of Fort Campbell, Ky., provide force protection for the COP. While being there, Housel's Heroes were asked if they would like to see what the Infantry do day in and day out of their jobs. Although it wasn't a part of their mission in providing running water for personal hygiene, they were offered the chance to conduct dismounted foot patrols up the foothills on one of the surrounding mountains.

"While I was there I had opportunity to search three houses, we found weapons and things they were not supposed to have and a fighting position dug out that was pointing straight at the COP," Housel said about his experience from conducting foot patrols.

Not everything about the mission was serious or required a heightened level of situational awareness. One day the 226th troops met with the mayor of one of the local villages and had tea with him. And, other times they were able to visit the local display of vendors selling their goods at what is known as "the bazaar." Housel's Heroes even had opportunity for some training helping the heroes become more proficient in



Photos by;
Spc. Celia Prince,
226th Engineer
Company,
Unit
Public
Affairs
Representative

shooting weapons, launching rockets and detonating explosives.

Living conditions were rough and the days long, but overall Housel said it was the most fun he and his heroes have while being deployed.

"It was nice to go to a place that likes to improve fighting positions and blow things up," Housel said, like a true engineer.

A new Commander for the 287th Sustainment Brigade

Story by Capt. Mark Bastian,
HHC, 287th Sustainment Brigade

Col. Robert Schmitt relinquished his command of the 287th Sustainment Brigade to Col. Barry Taylor during a ceremony on July 11, 2010, under the Keeper of the Plains statue in downtown Wichita, Kan.

Schmitt had only one request to his staff. His direction was that the ceremony not be held in the Armory. With the outside ceremony the day was perfect for the change of command. A clear calm day was unlike the first day of Schmitt had in May 2007.

On his first day in command, an EF.5 tornado destroyed over 90 percent of the town of Greensburg, Kan. Schmitt had to mobilize and move elements of the 287th Sustainment Brigade to assist with the security and clean-up of the town. This was just his first challenge as units under his command were called upon for the floods in southeast Kansas, ice storms and blizzards in the western parts of the state.

He also commanded the 287th Brigade on the Deployment to Iraq from November 2008 to September



Above left: Assistant adjutant general-Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, Col. Lee Tafarielli awards Col. Robert Schmitt the Meritorious Service medal for his past work as commander.



Above right: Schmitt tells the attendees that the 287th Sustainment Brigade will hold a special place in his heart.



Above: Col. Barry Taylor addresses the guests attending the ceremony. Taylor said that he will continue to keep the unit to the high degree of leadership and Soldier care.

Photos by Capt. Morwenna Barberena,
HHC, 287th Sustainment Brigade

2009. As he looked back his time in command he stated "When you look at what we have done... People say you can watch history pass you by or you can make history. This organization has made history, from the first day of my brigade command when I got that phone call from Greensburg at 4:30 a.m. to mobilize your battalion, we made history."

Schmitt's last act as the commander was to pass the brigade colors to Assistant Adjutant General-Army and Commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, Col. Lee Tafarielli, who then entrusted the brigade colors to Taylor as the incoming commander.

Taylor was the deputy commander for the Brigade during the deployment to Iraq and spoke about the great work the unit had done during the deployment.

He then told the audience, "It is an honor to be selected to command this brigade.... As commander... I will continue to build on the traditions of excellence established for this brigade in both peace and war. We will continue our steadfast support of the war fighter and continue in the high degree of leadership and soldier care."

Several members of the Adjutant General's Mounted Color Guard were present and participated in the ceremony. Five horsemen presented the Colors for the change of command. Two more presented roses to the incoming and outgoing commanders' spouses.

Time running out for claiming Stop Loss Pay

*By Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Carden
American Forces Press Service*

Eligible service members and veterans have less than three months to apply for Retroactive "Stop Loss" Special Pay.

The special pay was approved by Congress as part of the 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act. Servicemembers and veterans who involuntarily served or were on "Stop Loss" from Sept. 11, 2001 to Sept. 30, 2009, are entitled to \$500 for each month served past their contracted end-of-service, resignation or retirement date.

"This additional money, this benefit, was granted by Congress to recognize that continued service," Lernes "Bear" Hebert, acting director of the Defense Department's Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management office, said today in an interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

The Pentagon announced the program Oct. 21, 2009. Those eligible must apply by Oct. 21, 2010, to receive compensation. And, survivors of service members who were under 'Stop Loss' orders are entitled to the benefit.

The Defense Department wants to ensure everyone eligible for the special retroactive pay is compensated, Hebert said.

"We only have three months left for individuals to apply for this benefit," he said. "It's time to [apply] and get their application in. Notify anyone you've served with, even if they have separated, even family members of separated folks to apply."

Each service has its own criteria and specific outreach and application process. Members and veterans who qualify, or think they are eligible for the special pay must contact their individual services for eligibility requirements.

Information about the program, procedures and points of contact for each individual service can be found at www.defense.gov/stoploss

So far \$111 million has been paid out to 25,000 troops and veterans affected by 'Stop Loss,' Hebert said. The average payout is \$3,000 to \$4,000 per claim, he added.

The Pentagon has about \$423 million left in the

program's fund.

"Congress authorized a fairly generous number, so we're not concerned about the money running out," Hebert said. "We are concerned about individuals getting their applications in."

The Pentagon and individual services have been reaching out to qualified members, veterans and beneficiaries through direct mailings, veteran services organization, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the media. Those efforts will be ongoing through Oct. 21, 2010, as there is much money left to be claimed, Hebert said.

"The services have been doing tremendous outreach trying to get to all the eligibles," he said.

Initially there was a large response for claims under the program, Hebert said, but applications have since slowed down.

"Applications have tailed off," he said. "We suspect that some individuals are either engaged or busy or haven't taken the time to apply. Part of our continuing efforts is to remind them that they only have about three months left to get their application in."

Still, Hebert said he expects a surge of claims as the deadline nears. He urges those who are eligible for the retroactive pay to take advantage of it now.

"Congress authorized this for a one-year period," he said, noting it would require Congress to pass a new law in order to extend the program. "This is firm, so individuals out there who think they might be entitled to this benefit need to get their application in."

An estimated 145,000 service members, veterans and beneficiaries are entitled for the retroactive pay.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates maintains the authority to extend military service during a period of national emergency, an authority that dates back to 1983. Many of these "Stop Loss" troops were extended involuntarily in order for their units to preserve manpower and readiness in critical skill areas, Hebert said.

"The department uses it sparingly and only when it's absolutely necessary," he said. "It's contrary to the way we operate the all-volunteer force, but it's necessary in times when you have very high demands ... where you don't have a significant number of individuals with particular skills that you might need during a national emergency."

See STOP LOSS, Page 13

From STOP LOSS, Page 12

"It allows the department a bit of breathing room in order to re-establish additional personnel in those specialties," he added.

The Army is the only service with currently-serving troops affected by the 'Stop Loss' authority. But the Army is on track to have all involuntary service ended by March next year, Hebert said.

"['Stop Loss'] is a mechanism of last resort for maintaining forces during a national emergency, so while the authority for 'Stop Loss' will still exist, the secretary has made it very clear ... he wants the services not to use 'Stop Loss' at the current time," he said.

The 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act established **Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP)**, providing \$500 for each month/partial month served in stop loss status. Service members, veterans, and beneficiaries of service members whose service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009 are eligible for RSLSP.

To receive this benefit, those who served under stop loss must submit a claim for the special pay.

Throughout the year, the services have been reaching out to service members, veterans and their families through direct mail, veteran service organizations, and the media.

But there is still money left to be claimed, and the deadline is approaching. We're reminding all service members who are eligible to submit a claim for the benefit available to them. **The average benefit is \$3,700.**

Tell a Friend

If you know people who separated/retired and may be eligible for this benefit, remind them to submit a claim before the

WERE YOU STOP LOSSED?

If so, you may be eligible for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay

Those eligible must submit their claim by Oct. 21, 2010.

The DoD Web site (<http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>) links to service-specific sites, where you can get more information, or begin the RSLSP claim process.

**APPLY NOW FOR
RETROACTIVE STOP LOSS SPECIAL PAY**

deadline!

Note on Eligibility

Effective Dec. 19, 2009, per the Defense Appropriations Act, stop-logged service members who voluntarily reenlisted or extended their service, and received a bonus for such reenlistment or extension of service, became no longer eligible to receive retroactive stop loss special pay.

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

- 14-17 NGB/J7 Joint training System Specialist State Visit
- 18 HQ 235th Regiment ribbon cutting ceremony for 92 CMF National Training Center, 11 a.m., Bldg. 412, 2804 Arnold Avenue, Salina.
- 18 235th Regiment's 15th Annual Adjutant General's Physical Fitness competition, 9 a.m. (registration from 7-8:40 a.m.). Military, high school and others are urged to enter their teams. For more information, location and access to forms, contact Sgt. 1st Class Larry Patrick at 785-822-6617.

SEPTEMBER

- 25 HQ, 891st Engineer Regimental Ball and Golf Tourney—Coffeyville Community College, 400 W. 11th St. For more information contact Capt. Sean Linn, 620-365-4021 or sean.linn@us.army.mil

NOVEMBER

- 5 Annual KC Armory Reunion (18th Street Armory), 6 p.m. social hour with a BBQ dinner. Cost \$5 per person. Sign up now by emailing to: stephen.gfeller@att.net.

Soldiers and Airman Compete in Adjutant General's Match

*Story and photos by Sgt. Jason Lee,
Public Affairs Office*

Kansas National Guard Army and Airm teams competed against each other in the 2010 Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Championship Match at the Smoky Hill Weapons Range in Salina, Kan., Aug. 6-8.

The competition featured the M16 rifle and the M9 pistol and was hosted by the 184th Intelligence Wing, 190th Air Refueling Wing, the Kansas Army National Guard Area Medical Detachment and the Kansas Regional Training Center, Salina, Kan.

Groups of four Army and Airmen worked at each different competition to get the best score. The Soldiers and Airmen were challenged by being given more dynamic ways of shooting. The competition was designed to mimic real life modern day military tactics and scenarios.

"The Soldiers and Airmen out here have the opportunity to shoot various courses of fire that try to depict more real-life scenarios that would happen or occur if the Soldier or Airman had to engage in a firefight," said Tech. Sgt. David Salinas, competition scorer. "Ultimately, we are giving Soldiers and Airmen the opportunity to send more rounds down range with their M9 and M16A2 rifles."

Though most of the time the competition was for score, some of the matches featured "fun" events in which scores were not recorded for the overall competition. One of those events was the falling plate match, which was a bracketed event that featured both the M16 and the M9. The soldiers competed against each

other to see how many of the plates they could knock down in a timed event with the winners moving to the next round.

"We have individuals and teams competing against each other," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Dailey, event competitor. "This is my fifth time. It gets me out of the office and this is a good time."

The overall winners of the competition were Tech. Sgt. Christopher Barth, 184 IW, in the Individual TAG Match Novice category; Staff Sgt. Lonnie Herman, ARNG Medical Detachment, in the TAG Match Open and Tech. Sgt. James Dickinson, 184 IW Individual TAG Match Pro.

The overall team winners were Thing One, 184th IW, in first place; 35th ID Red, in second and Team Romeo, 190th ARW, took third. Thing Two, 184th IW, came out in first place in the Falling Plates competition.



These photos show Soldiers and Airmen checking their targets to begin scoring and find out which shooter is the top gun for 2010.



Museum receives painting of historic event

By Sgt. Jason Lee,
Public Affairs

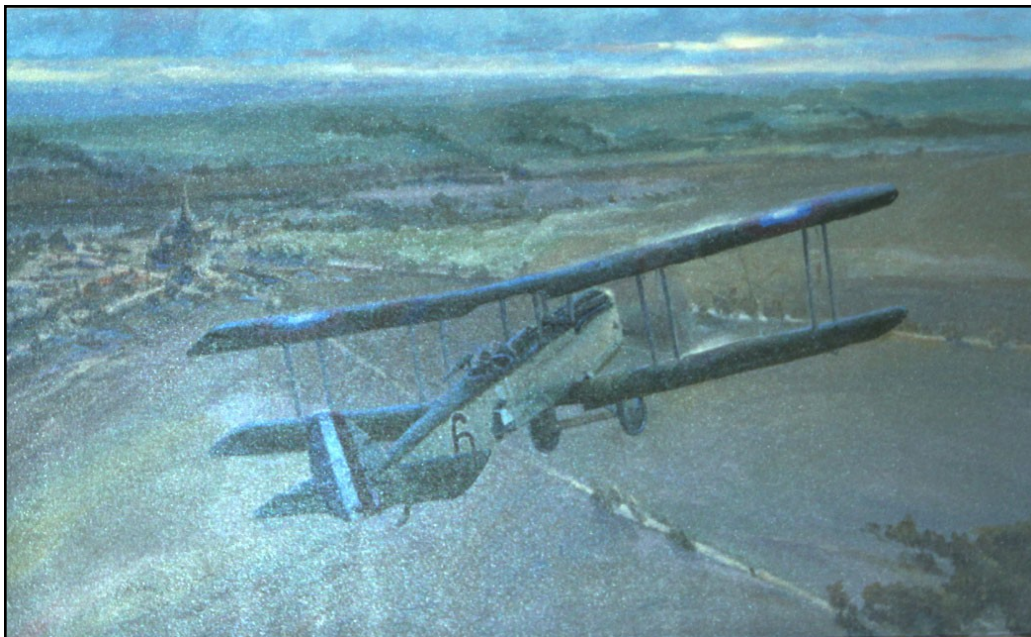
On June 14, 2010, the Museum of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka received the first copy of a painting that depicts Medal of Honor recipients 2nd Lt. Erwin Bleckley and 1st Lt. Harold Goettler.

The painting, *Mortal-Immortal* by artist Mike O'Neal, was donated to the museum by Jerry Hester, World War I aviation historian, with a dedication from the artist to the men and women of the Kansas Air National Guard.

Bleckley was a member of the Kansas National Guard from Wichita, Kan. and the first Air National Guardsman to receive the Medal of Honor when he was sent over to fight in World War I. Bleckley, originally a field artillery officer, became a forward observer in the 50th Aero Squadron, Remicourt, France.

Bleckley and pilot, Goettler, were shot down by German troops on their second attempt to locate and resupply the "Lost Battalion."

"It makes me feel proud to be a member of the Kansas National Guard organization. As a former Guardsman it is an honor serving the citizens of Kansas along with people such as Erwin R. Bleckley. His life has been an inspiration to me and many other Guardsmen," said retired Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs, Kansas National Guard command historian. "Erwin is unique in that he represents both the Army and the Air National Guard, as a field artillery officer flying as a forward observer in an airplane."



(above) A close-up of the painting. **(left photo, from left)**

World War I aviation historian Jerry Hester is assisted with the painting's unveiling by Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard

Photos by
Sgt. Jason Lee,
Public Affairs

The original painting was created so a copy of it could be placed on the cover of the 2010 summer edition of *Over the Front*, a World War I aviation historian magazine. It depicts the plane that Bleckley and Goettler were in moments before it crashed. Bleckley was believed to have been trying to save the plane from crashing after Goettler was mortally wounded.

For their efforts at trying to locate the "Lost Battalion," Bleckley and Goettler were awarded Medals of Honor in 1922.

Crisis City hosts Operation Smoky Hill First Responder Exercise

By Sgt. Jason Lee, Public Affairs Office

Crisis City, a training site for emergency responders in Salina, hosted Operation Smoky Hill, a first responder exercise July 11-18 that included nearly 300 participants from local, state and federal agencies.

The training event began with a preplanning phase with participating agencies determining their roles in a given crisis. The exercise went into action when a simulated bomb derailed a train and a second simulated detonation took down a high-rise apartment building. From there, first responders from across Kansas took action.

"They developed a plan. It was an all-hazard plan," said Frank Coots, Crisis City manager. "They did not know what the scenario was."

The overall objective of the exercise was to test how well the first responder agencies worked together in a real world situation.

"The training has been incredibly realistic in my opinion," said Coots. "And I know for a fact that all of the first responders at the local, state and federal levels that participated have achieved their exercise objectives and received some outstanding training."

The eight day Operation Smoky Hill training event encompassed members from the state to county and federal government. Participants included the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Regional Search and Rescue Team, Kansas Civil Air Patrol, Kansas and Nebraska National Guard, Major Emergency Response Group, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Saline County Emergency Management, Saline County Sheriff's Department, Salina Police Department, Salina-Saline County Health Department, Salina Regional Health Center, Salina Surgical Hospital, the American Red Cross and representatives from the FBI and U. S. Secret Service.

This exercise revealed the benefit of joint training between Army and Air Guard members.

"It is very challenging as a commander to try to get them (Army and Air Guard) to work together as a



Above, center—Salina Police Officer, Maj. Carson Mansfield, discusses the faux emergencies that the city of Salina had just faced during the emergency exercise.

Photo by Sgt. Jason Lee, Public Affairs Office

Below, from left—Deputy Director of Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Angee Morgan, assists in awarding Michelle Jenkins of Naue America, Inc., special recognition from the Great Plains Joint Training Center commander, Brig. Gen. Norman Steen, and Frank Coots, Manager of Crisis City for all the assistance that Naue America, Inc. has done for Crisis City.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD



team, to develop that team-like mentality," said Lt. Col. Troy A. Paisley, Nebraska National Guard 126th Chemical Battalion commander. "These types of exercises help us do that. It is hard, very difficult to do."

One of the goals of Operation Smoky Hill was to certify the Nebraska National Guard's Chemical, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) team.

See FIRST RESPONDER, Page 17



Above—Nebraska Guardsmen drill into a collapsed tunnel to begin an attempt of rescue for a victim trapped in the rubble pile.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Gregory Zuercher, 105th MPAD

From FIRST RESPONDER, Page 16

“We provide, at the direction of either the governor of Nebraska or federal authority if it is a larger disaster response, for decontamination and extraction of potentially chemically or radiologically or biologically injured patients,” said Col. James Rose, Medical Specialist Corps. “We do decontamination, we triage these individuals and then provide emergency stabilization treatment while we await transportation to a local treatment facility.”

The Nebraska National Guard has been CERFP certified for five years and are trained to work parallel with local, state and federal first responder agencies. The CERFP received its certification at the end of the training event.

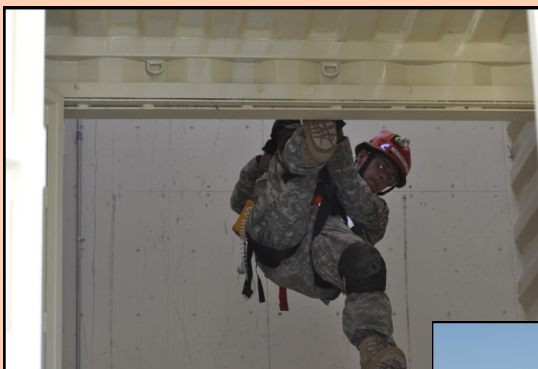


Above—Brig. Gen. Roma Amundson, Assistant Adjutant General of Nebraska Army National Guard talks to her Soldiers that participated in Crisis City.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Gregory Zuercher, 105th MPAD



Left—Nebraska Guardsmen set up a block and tackle to lower down a rescuer (Lower left) in the tower.



Right—Great Plains Joint Training Center commander, Brig. Gen. Norman Steen, says that Crisis City showcases its abilities during exercises like the recent exercise that the Nebraska National Guard held.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Gregory Zuercher, 105th MPAD



left—Salina firefighters board a train to find survivors, then later (bottom left) have to foam down an overturned rail car to prevent fire and spread of toxic chemicals during the exercises.



Photos by Sgt. Jason Lee, Public Affairs



Above photo—A member of the Salina Fire Department assists a mock train derailment casualty
Photos by Sgt. Jason Lee, State Public Affairs



Above photo—A member of the Salina Fire Department assists a mock train derailment casualty, then EMS workers (below) take another victim to the hospital for treatment.



Crisis City

Learning to manage the unthinkable

Story by Spc. Stephanie Hodges, 105th MPAD

In Middle America, an underground gas line erupts through the business district of a prairie town, spewing glass, debris and chemicals. The explosions rock the center-city, collapsing buildings in the downtown district into piles of twisted steel and concrete as it traps and injures hundreds of residents. When first responders arrive on the scene they find total chaos. People are crying for help, or simply crying out in agony. Wandering wounded search for loved ones or try to aid those worse off than themselves.

The cries for help are answered by the roar of a jackhammer as rescuers begin their exploration for the trapped individuals. As the search and extraction team finds victims, medical personnel swiftly care for the injured. The chemicals on the scene require the decontamination of the victims and necessary facilities to contain and treat them are rapidly erected. This is a disaster scenario that was played out at Crisis City near Salina, Kan.

See CRISIS CITY, Page 19

Nebraska Army and Air National Guard Chemical Biological Radiological Enhanced Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) trained at the Great Plains Joint Training Center and Crisis City July 14-19, 2010. The objective for the training was to certify the CERFP team in enhance communication and practice reconnaissance (RECON), search and extraction, decontamination (DECON) and Medical Triage.

Nebraska CERFP team is the primary emergency response providers of search and extraction and DECON for the FEMA region #7, which includes Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas. The responsibilities and proficiency of this team is critical to the safety of Kansas citizens and has the full supported of the Great Plains Training Center, Crisis City and the Kansas National Guard.

The Great Plains Joint Training facility was designed to prepare fire, police and first responders, as well as the Army and Air National Guard, to respond to natural disasters. Training venues have been built to give realistic military and civilian training. A nexus of resources to include the Smoky Hill Bombing Range, the Kansas Regional Training Institute and the billets are located geographically close to further enhance the learned skills and training.

"I am so impressed with the Great Plains Facility that I will urge continuation of training with this particular site," stated Brig. Gen. Roma Amundson, Assistant Adjutant General of Nebraska Army National Guard. "Great Plains training center was specifically created for domestic operations within the region. This is absolutely great and that is why we came down here. Our goal was for the CERPE team to complete their training and receive certification. We want to make sure that people are able to execute all their missions and to be able to coordinate all their activities and to communicate between the Air Force, Air National Guard, Army Guard and civilian agencies who are out here. So really it is an exercise in communications, exercise in doing their training and putting everything together."



Above photo—Another survivor has been rescued from the rubble pile and is being transported to an ambulance.

Photo by Robin Lorenson
(left)—A casualty is checked for further injuries.

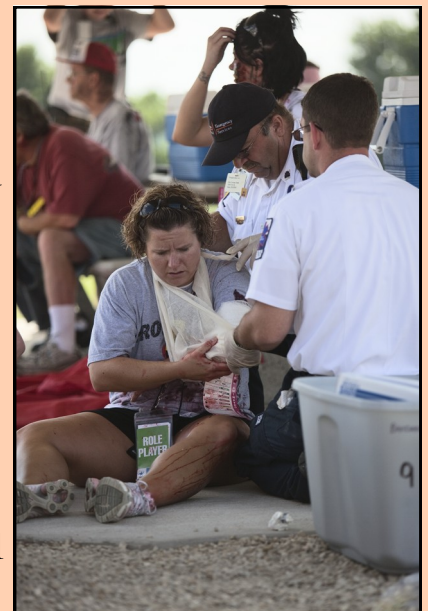
Photo by Sgt. Jason Lee,
Public Affairs Office

(lower left)—A triage begins during the decon process. The Nebraska National Guard set up the whole system of treatments for decontamination.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD

(below)—Another casualty is checked for further injuries.

Photo by Robin Lorenson



See CRISIS CITY, Page 21



(top left)—*Nebraska Air National Guard members prepare to lift a casualty up and out of a tower after a mock fall.*

(top right)—*Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers begin to drill into a tunnel to find survivors that have been identified during the search.*



(left)—*A Nebraska National Guard Soldier works his way through the tunnels of the rubble pile. Extra care has to be given during this exercise because in real life scenarios, the rubble pile could easily cave in to trap the rescuers as well.*

(lower left)—*Salina firefighters begin the evacuation process for a Crisis City rubble pile survivor.*



(bottom left)—*Salina firefighters begin the tedious process of searching through rubble to find survivors inside the rubble pile.*

(bottom right)—*Dogs make great searchers in the rubble pile for humans that have survived as well as those that have not.*

Photos by Ted Sundell of Burnt Photon Images Photography



From CRISIS CITY, Page 19

The majority of Nebraska's CERFP disaster exercise was performed at Crisis City, an advanced emergency response training hub managed by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management located at the Great Plains Joint Training Center. Frank Coots, manager of Crisis City, explained, "Crisis City allows for the collaboration of multidiscipline, multi-level, multi-agency first responders of local, state, and federal capabilities to work together and to get in each others' way during training. This enhances their capabilities of interoperability during a natural or manmade disaster."

"This training faculty was designed to prepare fire, police, first responders, and also the National Guard, Army and Air Force, to respond to natural disasters. So, the venues you see are built to provide realistic training to give military and civilian training for something we hope never happens. The partners have always been there however this takes this to a whole new level, we are providing a training venue where they exercise those partnerships that have been developed for many years," said Brig. Gen Norman Steen, Director of the Great Plains Joint Training Center.

"We would gladly come back," said Lt. Col. Troy Paisley, CERFP commander. "I strongly believe Crisis City is going to be one of the premier first responder training facilities in the nation."

The Kansas National Guard played an instrumental role as they collaborated with Crisis City and CERFP to plan, prepare and accomplish the intense combination of imperative training. Kansas Guard Soldiers provided medics, security, military operations requirement support and in turn was assisted with the fulfillment of CERFP's training aspirations.

Photo by
Sgt. 1st Class
Phillip Witzke,
105th MPAD

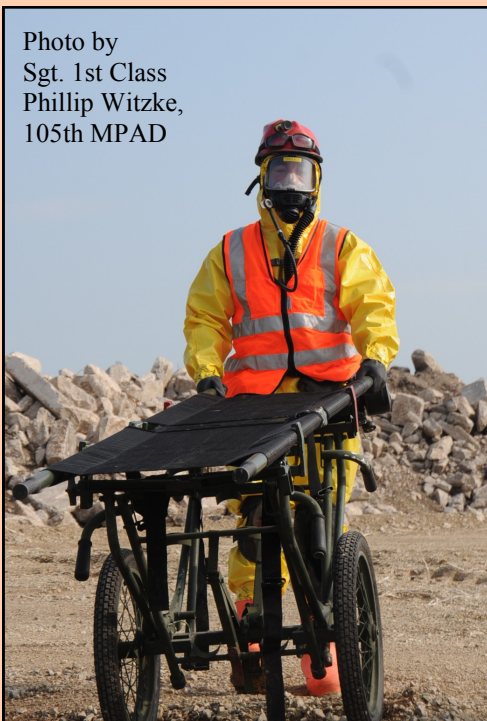


Photo by
Sgt. 1st Class
Phillip Witzke,
105th MPAD

(above)—Salina fire fighters bring foam down the de-railed train car that was leaking faux toxic chemicals.

(above)—Salina fire fighters bring over a wheeled gurney to begin transporting casualties. **(below)**—A Nebraska Guardsman wraps cords after helping set up the decon area.

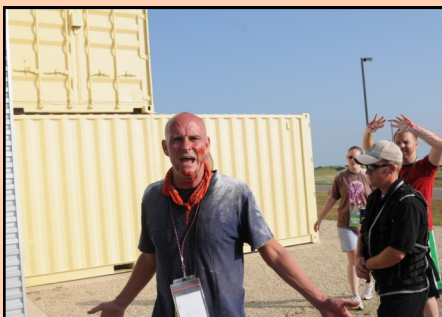
Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher



(right)—The Decon process begins **(below)**—A hired 'casualty' yells for help from his chemical burns.

(below, right)—Clothing needs to come off and everything needs decon treatment during the process.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher
105th MPAD



Crisis City has Expansion plans

By Spc. Stephanie Hodges,
105th MPAD

Frank Coots, manager of Crisis City, wholeheartedly believes in the business he is in and others are jumping on board at a rapid rate. “Word is getting out through not only the military but especially through the first responder community. They are truly excited about the incredible opportunity of multi-training courses enabled by the immense size of Crisis City. It is one of two venues of its size nationwide.”

Coots stated, “Crisis City is going to expand... Period.” Currently it is providing its participants with a Search and Rescue Tower, Rubble Pile, Urban Village/Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) Site, Train Derailment Venue, Incident Command Center and Agricultural Rescue Venue. With an abundance of training facilities talk of expansion is on the fore front, Coots has expressed interests and ideas about future expansion plans to include a high speed driving track, vehicle skid training center, water rescue, live burns and wild fires. At present two more training venues are currently in the planning stages.

Search and Rescue Tower: The Search and Rescue Tower Venue is a three story structure suited for high rise rescue operations, rope rescue, military and law enforcement search and extraction operations, and shoring operations.

Rubble Pile: Crisis City boasts a large rubble pile with underlying tunnel infrastructure suited for collapsed structure search and rescue operations, breaching and shoring operations, K-9 search for both rescue dog and cadaver dog operations, and heavy equipment extraction operations.

Urban Village/Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) Site: Our urban village simulates a small urban setting with a number of buildings of varying stories. This venue is suited for search and

Frank Coots, Manager of Crisis City says there are numerous opportunities for training at Crisis City.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher, 105th MPAD



rescue operations, breaching and shoring operations, law enforcement and military search and extraction as well as close-quarters small-arms combat operations.

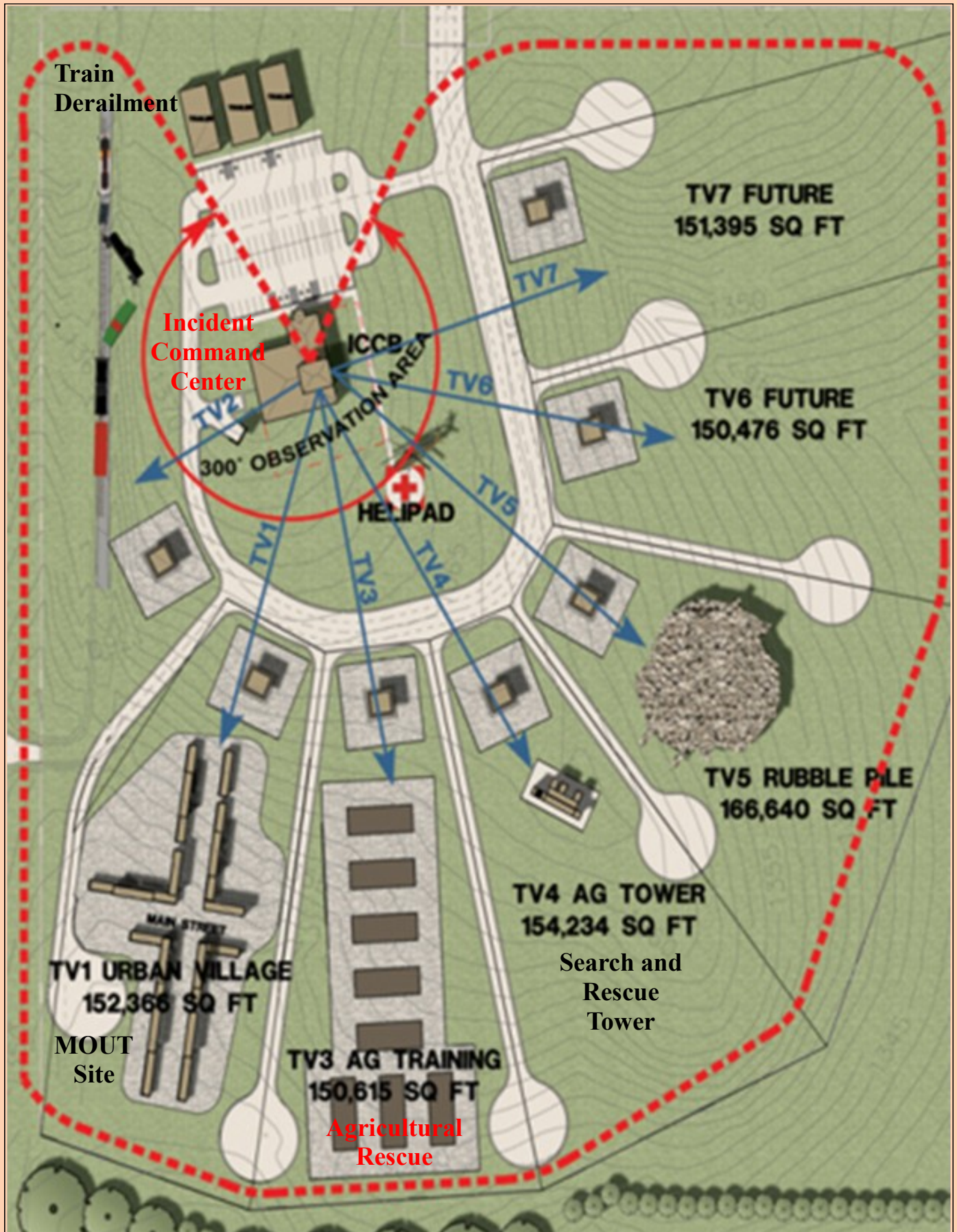
Train Derailment Venue: The first venue constructed at Crisis City. This venue includes a diesel engine, two boxcars, two liquid cars, a grain/coal car, and a two level passenger car. It is suitable for derailment search and rescue operations, hazardous material search and containment operations, train stoppage training, and many other such training operations.

Incident Command Center: The IC building boasts classroom facilities, conference room, working office spaces, a state of the art communications suite, and a command tower with a 300-degree view of all of Crisis City so that observer/controllers and incident commanders can control operations on all of the venues while maintaining line-of-site contact with all personnel.

Agricultural Rescue Venue: This venue will contain a grain silo and various agricultural equipment for search and rescue operations for a variety of incidents that can occur in an agricultural environment.

A map of the site is on page 23.

More information is available on the Crisis City website at: <http://www.crisiscitykansas.com/facilities.aspx>.



Decontamination specialists become more important in today's world

Story by Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher, 105th MPAD

Our modern world demands an ever growing supply of dangerous materials to keep our society functioning at a high technological level. Many of those materials, used in medical services and research, agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and nuclear power generation, among others, are considered safe when stored properly. Murphy's Law, however, never takes a day off. When an accident or a malicious act puts these materials outside their safety cantonment, they transition from safe to hazardous. Depending on the severity of the damage, it becomes a minor irritation or even a catastrophic event due to the number of people affected by, for example, a gas spill or a grain elevator explosion. That's why decontamination (DECON) teams exist to aid those affected by hazardous materials.

One unit of DECON specialists, the 754th Chemical Company of the Nebraska Army National Guard, spent their annual training last July at the Great Plains Joint Training Center (GPJTC) near Salina, Kan., specifically Crisis City, in preparation for re-certification of their qualifications. The 754th



Members of the Nebraska National Guard begin erection of the decontamination complex that will be used during decontamination training.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher, 105th MPAD



The erected decontamination complex has an intricate system of handling any potential casualties.

Photo by Ted Sundell of Burnt Photon Images Photography

is the DECON and middle of three units that comprise the CERFP-CBRNE (Chemical Enhanced Response Force Package – Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear, and Explosive) that make up the 126th Chemical Battalion in Omaha, Neb., the others being, in order, search and extraction, DECON, and medical triage. Nebraska is one of 17 states that have existing Army National Guard units that are specifically trained to respond to a weapons of mass destruction incident.

The first step for the DECON team, after the people and environment who have not been contaminated are separated and protected from those who have been, is to funnel the contaminated victims through the DECON lanes to be washed, scrubbed and cleaned. According to Staff Sgt. Raphael Razuri, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 754th and the DECON technical lane leader, "DECON starts from the hot zone all the way to the cold zone. By the time they get to the cold zone, they are completely cleaned - nothing (contamination) is left on the victim's skin or clothes. If military—nothing is left on their uniforms.

The mental aspect of training is just as, if not more, important than the physical side. "We always try to train for when a catastrophic or mass casualty event happens - we keep that in our head," said Spc. Philip Mausbach, a chemical specialist from Detachment 1 of the 754th in O'Neil, Neb.. "And when that stuff happens, this is what we need to do. There is no 'if'—it's always 'when.'"

See DECON, Page 25

From DECON, Page 24

One very noticeable aspect of each DECON soldier, which there are 15 qualified in the 754th, is the level of gear they wear to perform their mission. They are literally covered head to toe in protective gear - nothing is left to chance to allow contaminants inside the gear of those trained to clean those contaminants off their victims. Over 125 volunteer role players from the Salina area, who were trained and provided moulage (applied with mock injuries for training purposes) during their orientation and training, served as patients for the DECON team each training day and on certification day.

The last lane the DECON soldiers go through is a DECON tech lane for themselves, as they cannot remove their own gear until their outside layer, too, is decontaminated. Thus, conditions inside their DECON suits can get so uncomfortable, especially in 90 plus degree heat and the high humidity that existed each day during their exercise, that they limited its wear to 30 minute intervals. And that was between the daily set up and tear down of their DECON tents, tables, and equipment before the hottest part of the afternoon set in. "The work is hard if you're in the sun. It can be tough some days, but most times, it's just doing things the right way the first time, and that cuts off a lot of the hard work," said Mausbach.

The 754th supports their home state of Nebraska and all adjoining states - including Kansas, Colorado, Missouri, Iowa, South Dakota and Wyoming. They were called to Denver, Colo., for the Democratic National Convention in 2008. They can also



A mock casualty is treated for possible chemical contamination during the exercise.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher, 105th MPAD

be put on standby for more faraway missions if the need dictates, as was the case for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. "We prepare ourselves for a possible chemical attack, either domestic terrorism, or it could be an incident like a co-op blows up, and it sprays grain all over the place - we're

just trying to train and prepare for those types of events," said Mausbach. As a result, they act as a military quick reaction force, always on standby - on call 24/7, and must be ready to deploy within six hours of notification, so each soldier maintains grab and go gear.

This exercise was valuable in a multitude of ways. First, it allowed realistic training at a cutting edge facility that the GPJTC provides that the 754th and 126th had never utilized before. "This exercise allows experience to be gained in our job skills at the GPJTC, plus leadership gets to know their soldiers better," said Razuri. "The facilities here are good for aiding our training," said Mausbach. "This is our first time training at Crisis City - we've gone to other states like Iowa and South Dakota. This is the first time in Kansas for me."

Secondly, the facilities at the GPJTC and support from the Kansas Army National Guard helped make the Nebraska soldiers training more bearable in the middle of summer heat. "From the air conditioning shelters, the food, and the support the Kansas Army National Guard has given Nebraska," said Razuri, "support has been great." Mausbach said "we get A/C when we're not training, which is real nice. It gives you a chance to calm and cool down. We get showers, which helps, because when you're out in the field, you usually don't get showers - you're always hot and miserable. So being able to get back to the barracks and cool down is a big morale booster."

A Nebraska National Guard Soldier takes off his decontamination suit.

Photo by
Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher,
105th MPAD



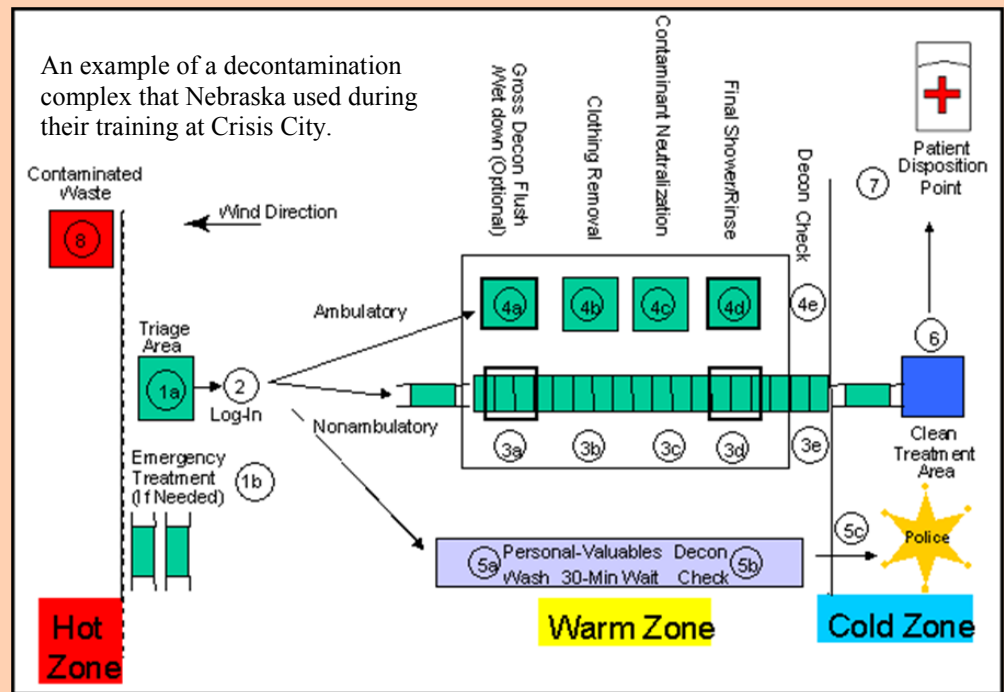
See DECON, Page 26

From DECON, Page 25

According to Mausbach, the learning curve is very fluid, no pun intended, in the chemical field. "I've been in the Army Guard for six years. We have to learn the CERFP as well as our military job. We're always having things change on us - new equipment, new SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures). It's definitely an evolving thing. I chose CERFP because it's a good way to help my community and it's a good experience. It's something good to know, and it kind of broadens your horizons a little bit."

Large sporting events are typical occasions that the CERFP unit might be on site for, according to 1st Lt. Guinio Valpone, the officer in charge of the decontaminant tech lane. "We are likely to support the Big 12 Championship games in Kansas City, as well as the 2012 Major League Baseball All-Star game (at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City). We don't just respond to an attack - but more so being on call just in case there is something that goes wrong."

Most civilians are unaware of the level of commitment and training the Army National Guard places on DECON units. "We're a little bit different from most units," said Sgt. Lindsay Loftus, a member of Detachment 1. "We go out to the field every unit assembly weekend. We're getting that hands on experience. We're not just behind the scenes doing it - we're actually getting out there."



EXAMPLE OF DECON PROCESS

Medical Triage: A process for sorting injured people into groups based on their need for or likely benefit from immediate medical treatment. Triage is used on the battlefield, at disaster sites, and in hospital emergency rooms when limited medical resources must be allocated. Simple triage identifies which persons need advanced medical care. In Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment (START), the whole evaluation process is generally conducted in 60 seconds or less. Once the evaluation is complete, the victims are labeled with one of the four triage categories.

Minor delayed care / can delay up to three hours

Delayed urgent care / can delay up to one hour

Immediate : immediate care / life-threatening injuries

Deceased victim is dead or mortally wounded / no care required

Common terminology used during the exercise

RECON: Reconnaissance is a preliminary exploratory survey conducted to gain and collect information, specifically, the nature of the building, possible site risks, quantity of victims and the evaluation of the number of rescuers required for rescue operations.

SAR: Search and Rescue/extraction: it is the search for and provision of aid to people who are in distress or imminent danger. The area is isolated while trapped individuals are rescued with use of various methods to include breaching and shoring operations, K-9 search and heavy equipment extraction operations.

DECON: Decontamination: process of cleansing to remove contamination. During this stage victims are separated into ambulatory and non-ambulatory. Each group is removed from their clothes and then washed with water or chemical specific agent depending upon the availability of resources. Once decontamination is complete victims are moved to medical personal for further treatment.

New Policy for social media

National Guard members need to know that even though a new DoD policy authorizes them to use many of the social media and other Web 2.0 platforms available on a non-classified government computer, there are consequences for misuse of them.

"Access will vary among the states, but DoD has granted access to Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube as long as users don't compromise operational security, participate in illegal activities or try to open prohibited Web sites," said Jack Harrison, the director of public affairs for the National Guard Bureau.

He added there are two kinds of internet posts, unofficial and official. Unofficial internet posts are not initiated by any part of the National Guard or reviewed within any official National Guard approval process. Official internet posts involve content released in an official capacity by a National Guard public affairs office.

Posting internal documents or information that the National Guard has not officially released to the public is prohibited, including memos, e-mails, meeting notes, message traffic, white papers, public affairs guidance, pre-decisional materials, investigatory information and proprietary information.

Guard members are also not allowed to release National Guard e-mail addresses, telephone numbers or fax numbers not already authorized for public release.

They are, however, encouraged to responsibly engage in unofficial internet posts about the National Guard.

"The National Guard is involved in various missions around the world every day, and Guard members are in the best position to share factually the National Guard's story," Harrison said.

When assigned to a federal mission, Guard members must comply with Army or Air Force guidelines for use of social media and are subject to disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

As with other forms of communication, Guard members must also adhere to federal laws, National Guard regulations and governing policies when making unofficial internet posts.

They are personally responsible for all content that they publish on social networking sites, blogs or other Websites.

"They must also be mindful of the content not related to the National Guard that they post, since the lines between a Guard member's personal and professional life are often blurred," Harrison said.

He added that many social media sites have policies that give them ownership of all content and information posted or stored on their sites.

When communicating online about the National Guard in unofficial internet posts, they may identify themselves as Guard members and include their rank, military component and status.

However, if they decide not to identify themselves as Guard members, they should not disguise, impersonate or misrepresent their identity or affiliation with the National Guard.

When expressing personal opinions, Guard members

should make it clear that they are speaking for themselves and not on behalf of the National Guard, Harrison said.

They are also encouraged to use a disclaimer such as: "The postings on this site are my own and don't represent the National Guard's positions or opinions."

As with other forms of personal public engagement, Guard members must avoid offensive and inappropriate behavior that could bring discredit upon themselves and the National Guard. This includes posting any defamatory, libelous, obscene, abusive, threatening, racially or ethnically hateful or otherwise offensive or illegal information or material.

Correcting errors and misrepresentations made by others about the National Guard should be done professionally and respectfully, not emotionally. Guard members should contact their chain of command or public affairs office for guidance if they are uncertain about the need for a response.

When posting political content, Guard members must adhere to policy in Department of Defense Directive 1344.10. They should also not imply National Guard endorsement of any opinions, products or causes other than those already officially endorsed by the National Guard.

Guard members should not release personal identifiable information, such as social security number, home address or driver's license number that could be used to distinguish their individual identity or that of another Guardsman.

By piecing together information provided on different Websites, criminals can use information to impersonate Guard members and steal passwords.

Guard members should use privacy settings on social networking sites so posted personal information and photos can be viewed only by their "friends." They should also recognize that social network "friends" and "followers" could affect determinations in background investigations for security clearances.

"Remember, what happens online, is available to everyone, everywhere," Harrison said. "There should be no assumption of privacy when Guard members begin to interact with others online."

Guard members should not post information that would infringe upon the privacy, proprietary or personal rights of others or use any words, logos or other marks that would infringe upon the trademark, service mark, certification mark, or other intellectual property rights of the owners of such marks without the permission of the owners.

The National Guard, Army or Air Force logo and other symbols may be used in unofficial posts as long as the symbols are used in a manner that does not bring discredit upon the Guard, result in personal financial gain or give the impression of official or implied endorsement.

Finally, Guard members should review their accounts daily for possible use or changes by unauthorized users and should install and maintain current anti-virus and anti-spyware software on their personal computers.

For answers to social media questions, Guard members should contact their local public affairs office or the National Guard social media office at socialmedia@ng.army.mil.

SINAI MISSION ENDS WITH A WARM KANSAS WELCOME HOME

By Sgt. Jason Lee
Public Affairs Office

Approximately 430 Kansas National Guard soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery returned home to Topeka July 13, and July 17 after being gone for a year-long deployment in Egypt.

The 2-130th FA deployed to Egypt in July 2009 as part of the Multinational Force and Observers mission.

"The Sinai mission is not well known here in the United States. It's not well known in Kansas," said Brig. Gen. John Davoren, assistant adjutant general—Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard. "But, it (this mission) is an opportunity for us to let folks know that Kansans have gone and answered the call of the nation and performed superbly at it."

The battalion was tasked with supervising the implementation of the security provisions of the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty of Peace.

"The hardest thing I learned from this deployment is that deployments are especially hard on the families," said Sgt. John Rickard. "They are actually harder than I thought it would be on me because of being away from them for such a long time."

"Just seeing how Egypt is and how the country is, it made me proud that I am from America," said Rickard. "The fact is we have got it pretty darn good over here compared to them."

The 2-130th FA is headquartered in Hiawatha, with subordinate units located in Abilene, Clay Center, Concordia, Hiawatha, Holton, Marysville, Ottawa and Salina.



"Battalion, dismissed!" With that command, Lt. Col. John Rueger, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 130th field Artillery, releases his troops to their families.

Photo by Sgt. Jason Lee, Public Affairs Office

Warner awarded medal

Maj. Shy Warner was recently awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his work as the Regimental Personnel Officer for the 235th Training Regiment.

"Warner has shown through his efforts," said regimental commander, Col. Robert Windham, "that the regiment was able to greatly improve in many functions, and he's greatly assisted with those family members who have had loved ones that were killed in action and inducted into the Kansas Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame."

(right photo)—235th Training Regimental Commander, Col. Robert Windham congratulates Maj. Shy Warner on his award.



287th Special Troops Battalion changed command in August

The Kansas Army National Guard's 287th Special Troops Battalion had a change of command ceremony on Aug. 8, 2010. Outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Tony Divish handed over command to Lt. Col. Matt Bedwell.

"I appreciate the opportunity to lead the outstanding Soldiers of the 287th Special Troops Battalion, many having returned from a deployment to Iraq just last year," said Bedwell. "We will continue to maintain the high standards of this organization, and build upon the record of successes achieved by this proud group of combat logisticians."

"It was an honor to lead this battalion in war and in peace," said Divish. "I will always be proud of the accomplishments of the 287th Special Troops Battalion, and will continue to follow the successes of these fine Soldiers in the years to come."

Bedwell has a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology from Missouri State University. His military education includes the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, Quartermaster Officer Advance Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School and Command and General Staff College.



Bedwell is the full-time Logistics Management Officer for the director of Logistics, Kansas Army National Guard. His wife, Dana, is the district chairperson for Health and Physical Education in the Grandview, Mo., School District. They have two boys, Joe and Nick.

Divish is presently attending the U.S. Army War College Distance Learning Program. He is the Surface Maintenance Manager, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas - Land Component, Topeka.

He and his wife, Christine, have two children, Olivia and Tyler.

The ceremony was held in Building 600 at the Salina Airport, 2720 Arnold Court, Salina, Kan.

The 287th Special Troops Battalion is headquartered in Hays with subordinate companies located in Wichita, Norton, Smith Center and Great Bend.



(above photo)—Director of Logistics, Col. Barry Taylor, congratulates Lt. Col. Tony Divish on his good job at command and for the Meritorious Service Medal he has just earned. (left photo)—Incoming commander Lt. Col. Matt Bedwell accepts the unit colors from Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Tunheim.

Photos by Sgt. Jason Lee, Public Affairs Office

Resiliency Center instills tools for coping with military stresses

By Sgt. Jason Lee, Public Affairs Office

Many Army and Air Kansas National Guard Soldiers have answered the nation's call and crossed the ocean to complete tours-of-duty in unfamiliar and unforgiving lands. Through all their sacrifices, Soldiers and Airmen have found that through everything they endured, ever changing situations were the only things that remained constant.

For men and women of the Kansas Guard, the phrase "adapt and overcome" may not have meant much on a drill weekend, but after they got the call to deploy they knew that they had a lot of hard and stressful times ahead of them.

Being in a foreign land for an extended period of time can cause stress for even the most level-headed person. The Kansas National Guard relies on the Resiliency Center to train Soldiers and Airmen in learning coping skills to better prepare them to handle stressful and unwanted situations.

"The Resiliency Center's mission is to provide a comprehensive range of customized education and training," said Dr. Richard Selig, Advisor to the adjutant general for psychological health. "(The Resiliency Center) instills the tools necessary to handle high-level stress, accurately identify potential problems, and develop both the individual and group techniques to survive and prosper in times of great stress."

The Resiliency Center has many ways to assist Soldiers who have been or are about to be overwhelmed by stressful situations.

"Just as one performs strength training in a gymnasium to prevent disabling physical injuries, the Resiliency program provides a comprehensive approach to create physically and emotionally resilient responses to deployment, war and disaster," said Selig.

The Resiliency Center's Flash Forward program is designed for Soldiers who are in a leadership position and hold the rank of sergeant or above. The Flash Forward program is a one-day "Adult Learning Module" course that focuses on Soldiers' leadership traits, personal assessment, bolstering strengths, family resiliency and spirituality. The program is designed so that Soldiers can have a per-

sonal resiliency plan that helps them be a better leader and gives them better supervisory skills.

"Individual readiness, collective readiness and effective leadership can lead to improved mission preparedness and ultimately improved mission response and performance," said Selig. "The Resiliency Center had developed an innovative course that incorporates ground-breaking education, skills training, cutting edge technology and research that will result in improved performance, adaptation and response to stress."

To improve family resiliency, the Resiliency Center conducts a Life Ties Family Resiliency Course that teaches families to evaluate their personal strengths and understand what a cohesive unified family is. The Life Ties course focuses on families setting realistic goals, approaching potentially stressful situations with a positive framework and shows the family new, healthy solutions to change a stressful situation into a positive one.



Preparing for Africa

Spc. Leonard Herrman and Spc. Jerry Lofland from Battery E (Target Acquisition), 161st Field Artillery, take security positions while conducting Situation Training Exercise lanes at Fort Riley, Kan., on July 20, 2010. The battalion is preparing to deploy to the Horn of Africa. The STX lanes were utilized to help develop and assess the squad level leadership in preparation for the deployment.

(Photo by Capt. Rodney Galindo)

New council will represent teens of Kansas Guard families

Family Programs is introducing a new organization designed specifically for military youth.

The Kansas National Guard Teen Council is being put together to listen to the needs, ideas, and suggestions of Kansas military children and youth. Representatives on the council will be 13-18 years old, and will serve as role models and leaders. Darcy Seitz, State Youth Coordinator, will serve as the facilitator. As representatives of the Kansas National Guard Child and Youth Program, Teen Council members will act as a voice for all National Guard children and youth throughout Kansas.

The Kansas National Guard Teen Council will have periodic meetings to talk about ideas for improving events, like Teen and Kid's Camp, and to discuss life as a military youth. The Council will also be involved with providing resources and handouts to schools in Kansas, and will take part in opportunities to lead presentations at community and Family Program sponsored events.

To be involved in the Kansas National Guard Teen Council, the following criteria for application

apply:

- ♦ Minimum age of 13 (as of July 1, 2010)
- ♦ Must have a family member in the Kansas National Guard
- ♦ Must have the ability to travel for meetings, presentations, volunteer opportunities, and community service
- ♦ Be willing to hold a term of appointment for 1 full year
- ♦ Agree to actively participate in the Kansas National Guard Teen Council and selected events sponsored by Family Programs/Child and Youth Programs
- ♦ As opportunities arise, be willing to represent the Kansas National Guard Teen Council at community events in a professional, positive manner

The Kansas National Guard Teen Council is dedicated to developing leadership skills and enhancing life for military children and youth of Kansas. If you would like to nominate a teen to serve on the Council, please contact Darcy Seitz at 785-274-1967 or by e-mail at darcy.l.seitz.ctr@us.army.mil.

From SCHOOL, Page 7

Shadi Khan, Social Labor Director and highly esteemed member of the Paktika Providence also stopped in to congratulate the students. Shadi Khan reassured the students "that even though there are other places to work and make money outside of their country," staying in their own Providence sends "a strong and clear message." By encouraging the young men to stay in their own locale "it would create a corruption-free government able to stand on its own." And, by doing so that would open the doors for more up and coming contractors to come into the area to build a more stable and productive community for a better Afghanistan.

Through the graduation and the job fair, the men will be able to move on to work for area Paktika Contractors and even possibly become sub-contractors or contractors. And, in time, and with proper security clearances the men could possibly be allowed onto Forward Operating Base Sharana to help with future expansion. The skills these young men have developed over their time at the CEE will help better their families, communities and Afghanistan for generations to come.

(top right photo) Interpreter Dawood speaks with the President of Gallant Engineering Team and Construction Company, Engineer Wajhuddin to see if he will be able to hire any of the students graduating later that day.

(bottom right) The students of the CEE pose for a photo with their graduation certificate after their ceremony on May 25.



Himalayan peak the next challenge for Kansas National Guardsman

By Stephen D. Larson, Public Affairs Office

"I need a challenge in life," says Kansas National Guard Capt. Aaron "Ike" Isaacson.

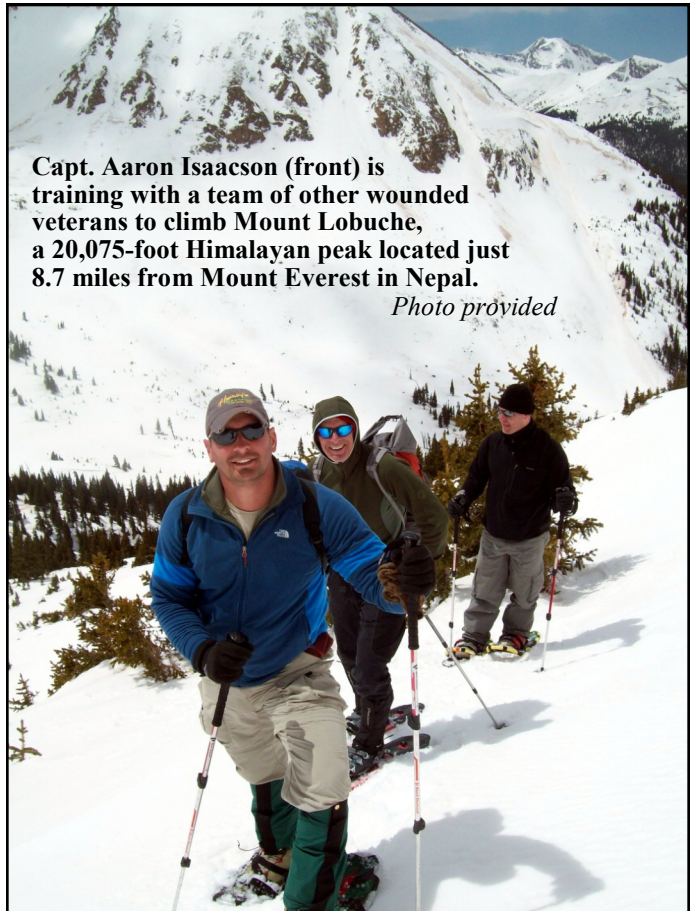
Isaacson has already seen plenty of challenges, including deployments to Iraq in 2004, 2005 and 2006, followed by a tour in Afghanistan in 2008. During these deployments, Isaacson was injured twice, the first time in 2005 by the explosion of a land mine set off by a vehicle as he walked beside it. The explosion damaged his hearing and caused minor head and neck trauma. These injuries resulted in his award of the Purple Heart.

Isaacson's second major injury was during his Afghanistan deployment. While conducting combat operations along the Pakistan boarder he broke his right leg.

But those challenges did not keep him from taking on a new one—climbing to the top of a mountain in Nepal. Isaacson, a member of the Kansas National Guard's 69th Troop Command, will join a team of wounded warriors from other branches of the U.S. military for a "Soldiers to the Summit" expedition Oct. 2-21, 2010, that will take them to the top of Mount Lobuche, a 20,075 foot peak located just 8.7 miles from Mount Everest. The expedition is organized by World TEAM Sports, a non-profit organization that showcases what can be achieved by disabled athletes through the power of an inclusive and diverse team.

"I've always been impressed by the spirit of our fighting men and women, especially our wounded warriors," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. "I've met so many of them who, although they have been wounded, sometimes terribly so, they don't give up. They say 'I'm not going to let this beat me' and they don't. They deserve our honor and respect, every one of them."

After his leg was shattered in Afghanistan, Isaacson underwent surgery and spent a year recovering.



Capt. Aaron Isaacson (front) is training with a team of other wounded veterans to climb Mount Lobuche, a 20,075-foot Himalayan peak located just 8.7 miles from Mount Everest in Nepal.

Photo provided

"2009 went by pretty slow," said Isaacson.

When the call came about the expedition, Isaacson immediately accepted the opportunity to test himself once again. He and other team members have been training with the Outward Bound organization in Colorado to prepare themselves for the arduous task ahead of them. From the airstrip in Lukla, it will take the group seven days of hiking through the Khumbu region just to reach their Advance Base Camp at an altitude of 18,212 feet. But Isaacson is looking forward to the experience.

"I've been ramping up and getting ready for something exciting," he said. "I'm really excited, pumped for it."

A documentary is being filmed about the training and will follow the climb up Mount Lobuche. A magazine reporter will accompany the climbers, as well.

Information about Isaacson, his fellow team members and the expedition can be found on-line at the Soldier to the Summit Web site (<http://soldierstothesummit.org>)

Kansas Soldiers take over force protection mission in Africa

*By Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Graham
CJTF-HOA Public Affairs*

The 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, Kansas National Guard, conducted a Relief in Place and Transfer of Authority with the 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment, Puerto Rico National Guard, June 24 at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. The Kansas battalion assumed the lead in force protection and watch standing duties at the camp.

Relief in Place and Transfer of Authority is the process where one battalion takes the place of another. Over the next several days, each member of the oncoming team will follow his counterpart, trying to absorb every aspect of that job.

Maj. Albert Irizarry, 1/65th Infantry Regiment battalion commander, said that duty at Camp Lemonnier was a great experience for the battalion's leadership.

"This ceremony was symbolic," said Irizarry. "It means a lot for us and it validates our Soldier's sacrifices and hard work. The men and women of the Puerto Rico National Guard met the challenges head on and they should be commended."

Irizarry also said that the 2/137th CAB has been learning local procedures and preparing to fully assume force protection and watch standing duties.

Lt. Col. Greg Mittman, 2/137th CAB battalion commander, said that he was excited to assume his duties and responsibilities in Djibouti. He also said that Africa presents challenges unlike any he experienced on his previous deployments to Iraq or Afghanistan.

"The Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa mission is different because we are not involved in a kinetic environment," said Mittman. "We are here to be diplomats and strengthen our partnership with the Djiboutian people."

"Our Soldiers want to develop a bond with the people of this country and experience their rich history and culture," said Mittman. "Most Americans will never get an opportunity to visit a place so rich in culture."

Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Hester said that every Soldier was ready to get the deployment started.

"The HOA mission is a unique opportunity to share and learn from our capable Djiboutian partners and teammates," said Hester.

"We have an opportunity to represent the great state of Kansas, our parents and show people the things that make America so strong: Our strong desire to help people all over the world."

Mittman said that the Soldiers were already fond of the services provided at Camp Lemonnier.

"Everyone likes the gym, Wi-Fi and the galley," said Mittman. "Camp Lemonnier has a lot of things that remind you of home. Our Soldiers have already contacted loved ones back home and let them know that things are fine here. The camp is taking care of them."



The command flag of Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, is passed from one unit to another during a Transfer of Authority ceremony for the Combined Joint Task force-Horn of Africa mission.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Graham

Kansas Soldiers will provide force protection for rescue missions

By Lt. Col. Michael O'Neal,
United States African Command

On May 7, 2010, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment was mobilized for deployment with the mission to provide support to the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. While this was not the first deployment for most of the Soldiers assigned to the battalion, for some this would be their first deployment experience outside the Continental United States. However, this would be the first time any of the Soldiers assigned to the battalion would be providing force protection for the United States Air Force Para Rescue personnel, for personnel recovery operations in Horn of Africa.

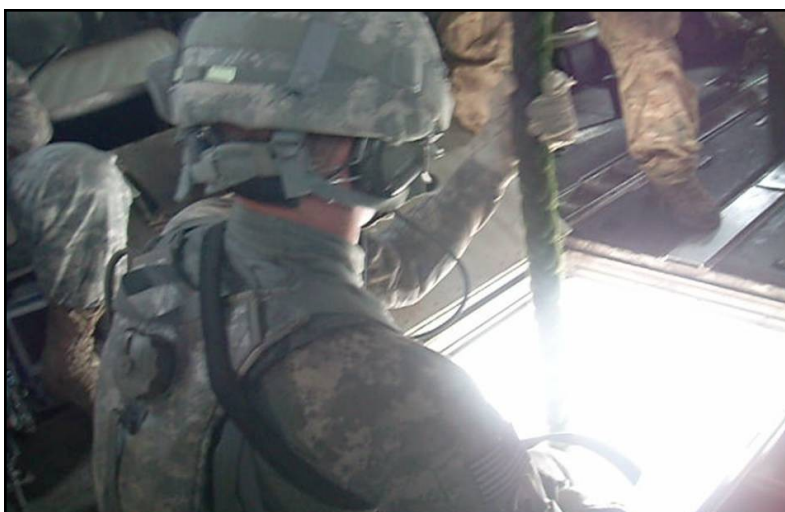
While basic infantry skills were required to perform the majority of the tasks for the force protection mission, there were some tasks which the Soldiers assigned to the Joint Combat Search and Rescue platoon would need to learn in order to successfully perform their mission. Soldiers who were assigned to the JCSAR platoon had not been associated with any U.S. Air Force Para Rescue jumper units previous to this assignment and were not familiar with the skill and techniques the Para Rescue personnel utilize.

These skills were a critical factor, because the primary mission of the infantry units is to find, fix, fight and kill the enemy. The primary mission of the U.S. Air Force Para Rescue jumper units is to rescue aircrews, Soldiers, sailors or civilians and, if needed, to provide medical assistance to stabilize the patient. To help ensure that the Soldiers assigned to this mission could be successful, the leadership of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion had to discover a way to provide the necessary coordination and train-

ing during the mobilization.

The initial task organization for the JCSAR platoon was developed by following a pre-deployment site survey with the 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry, Puerto Rico Army National Guard, deployed to Horn of Africa. The Deployment Manning Document, which outlined the structure of the platoon, was developed based on the information from the survey. After notification of the mission, the initial strength of the platoon was 37 personnel, which were broken down into three squads of 11 Soldiers each with two medics, a platoon leader and a platoon sergeant.

The JCSAR platoon operated with this initial task



The Joint Combat Search and Rescue Platoon practices 'fast-roping' from a CH 53 helicopter.

organization during the pre-mobilization training in Salina, Kan. After the battalion was mobilized and as the platoon began the mobilization training at Fort Lewis, Wash., it became apparent, based on the tactics, techniques, and procedures that the 1st Army unit was using during training, that the platoon needed to expand from the origi-

nal three squads to four and add four additional personnel to the platoon.

The key training tasks the 1st Army trainers for this mission were contact drills, live-fire exercises and squad/platoon level day/night land navigation training. The live-fire exercises began at the fire team level and progressed to the platoon level. These live-fire exercises gave the teams and squads the confidence needed to maneuver with each other before live rounds were fired. It also gave the fire team and squad leaders refresher training on managing the rates of fire and training in controlling their fire teams and squads while utilizing the various movement techniques over varying types of terrain.

See RESCUE, Page 35

From RESCUE, Page 34

The 1st Army trainers contacted a Para Rescue jumper unit from Oregon to come to Fort Lewis to brief the JCSAR platoon members on the Para Rescue jumper mission, capabilities and tactics. The briefings and training the Para Rescue jumpers provided gave the members of the JCSAR platoon the ability to ask questions, handle the equipment the Para Rescue jumpers used during missions, and to gain insight regarding their future missions.

The training with the Para Rescue jumpers allowed the leadership of the platoon to identify the deficiencies in the training, and allowed the platoon to correct these deficiencies prior to deployment to Horn of Africa.

Upon deploying to the Horn of Africa, the JCSAR platoon was specifically assigned to support Personnel Recovery missions by providing security for the Para Rescue jumpers and any isolated persons, injured persons or sensitive equipment. The intent of this mission is to allow the Para Rescue jumpers the ability to focus on their primary mission of providing medical care, extraction, and recovery of sensitive items, without having to provide security for themselves. The JCSAR platoon currently consists of three squads of eight Soldiers who are dedicated to support the CH-53 helicopters and two additional squads of six personnel each to support the C130 airplanes.

While deployed to the Horn of Africa, the JCSAR platoon's training focuses on ensuring it is proficient in the basic skills to allow them to be successful in their mission. The platoon trains on battle drills, basic rifle marksmanship, short range marksmanship, land navigation, demolitions and night operations.

The platoon also trains on air assault techniques; which include the ability to fast rope from rotary wing aircraft and setting up drop zones/pickup zones. The platoon conducts most of its training exercises at night to perfect the use of night vision devices and runs night ranges to increase the comfort level of the platoon members in firing weapons in a limited visibility operation.

Depending on the JCSAR platoon's training schedule, it trains with the Para Rescue jumpers during the week. The Para Rescue jumpers make it a priority to incorporate the JCSAR platoon into their training whenever it is possible. The JCSAR platoon joins the Para Rescue jumpers in conducting water operations utilizing inflatable boats to familiarize the Soldiers in using them and to become familiar in conducting operations in the water. The JCSAR platoon also trains in survival, evade, resistance, and escape operations with the Para Rescue jumpers. Additionally, the Para Rescue jumpers give medical training to the members of the JCSAR platoon in order to increase the unit's proficiency in treating injuries if needed.



Soldiers of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, Kansas National Guard will provide force protection for the rescue missions conducted by the platoon.

Photos provided

Deadline for Federal Tuition Assistance is Sept. 1, 2010. Failure to apply by this deadline could result in denial of Education funding. Please keep in mind this benefit is subject to the availability of funds. Apply online at: <https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits> or <https://www.education.ng.mil> Please ensure grades and degree plans are submitted to the Education Office. Ensure this message goes to all Mday Soldiers.

Hinkley receives command of 235th Training Regiment

*By Staff Sgt. Jamie J. Baxter, UPAR
2nd Battalion, 235th Regiment*

As the Soldiers at the 2nd Battalion, 235th Training Regiment said farewell to Lt. Col. John Campbell, they also took the time to warmly welcome Lt. Col. Douglas Hinkley during a change of command ceremony held in Salina, Kan., June 5, 2010.

Campbell conveyed his appreciation for the work of the Soldiers he commanded at the Kansas Regional Training Institute's Modular Training Battalion.

"It's always bittersweet to leave command of a unit made up of top quality Soldiers who are so passionate about the jobs they do," said Campbell. "I have valued my time here very much, and I thank these Soldiers for inspiring me as a leader. I am confident that the unit will continue to excel and impact it's trainees under the capable hands of Lt. Col. Hinkley."

Hinkley joined the Army in 1983 where he served in the Utah Army National Guard as an enlisted Soldier and noncommissioned officer. In 1990, he was commissioned at the California Military Academy. After completing the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course as the distinguished graduate, he returned and served in various positions within the California, New York and Kansas Army National Guards, including the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, deploying with the battalion to Iraq in 2003. In 2005 and 2006, he served in the Army Operations Center at the Pentagon in Washington D.C.

His military education includes Noncommissioned Officer's Academy, Army Battle Skills Course, TAC Officer School, Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advance Courses, Pre-Command Course, Combined Arms Services and Staff School and Command and General Staff Officers Course. His civilian education includes a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from Utah State University and an Master's degree in Business from the University of Phoenix.

His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with silver oak leaf cluster, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Army Staff Badge.

Campbell's service to the Army and to the state of Kansas began in 1986 when he received his commission from the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Kansas, graduating with a Bachelors degree in Human Resources. After completing Field Artillery Offi-



Lt. Col. John Campbell (left center) prepares to relinquish command of the 2nd Battalion, 235th Training Regiment to Lt. Col. Douglas Hinkley (right).

cer's Basic Course he made his way through the field artillery community of Kansas. His travels placed him in various positions and first brought him to the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. In 1993, he deployed with the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Then, in 1996, he was deployed to Bosnia with Battery E (Target Acquisition), 161st Field Artillery. His latest deployment was with the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery to Iraq.

Campbell's military education includes Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Service and Staff School and the Command and General Staff Officers Course. He is currently attending the U.S. Army War College.

Campbell's military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with six oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the South West Asia Service Medal with campaign star, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the NATO Service Medal (Former Yugoslavia), and the Combat Action Badge.

As Hinkley addressed his Soldiers and the guests of the ceremony, he took the time to thank those in attendance.

"One of my favorite definitions of leadership is ultimately about creating a way for people to contribute to making something extraordinary happen," he said.

"I know that the men and women of this Army and the Kansas Army National Guard are making extraordinary things happen... I don't think that there is a more critical time for quality training than today and by utilizing the combat experiences of the trainers in this regiment."

He concluded by saying, "I look forward to leading the way with the great leaders and Soldiers of the Second Battalion to continue to contribute to making extraordinary things happen that effect the national strategy of the United States and for peace and protection of the citizens of this great nation."